Please amend Claims 1, 10, and 19 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended)   A method of assigning resources to nodes in a workflow comprising:

defining a plurality of nodes, wherein said nodes are tasks to be executed within said workflow;

defining said resources for execution of said nodes;

storing a set of data items having variables pertaining to execution of said workflow; and

assigning said resources to said nodes for execution thereof in accordance with a set of rules, said set of rules for controlling the execution of said workflow, wherein each rule of said set of rules specifies an event, a condition, and an action.

2. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said rules are based in accordance with an execution history of said workflow.

3. (Original) The method as recited in Claim1 wherein said rules are based in accordance with said set of data items.

4. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said rules are based in accordance with time, wherein said time is relative to the execution of said nodes, and wherein said time is relative to the execution of said workflow, and wherein

said time is relative to absolute time.

5. (Original) The method as recite in Claim 1 wherein said rules are based upon an event/action criteria and wherein said rules are based upon an event/condition/action criteria.

6. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said rules are defined in accordance with a common language used for the entire workflow and used for assigning said resources to said nodes.

7. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said resources executing said nodes are agents.

8. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1 further comprises pre-computed authorizations, and wherein said authorizations are applied to said resources and wherein said authorizations are maintained in an up-to-date-manner, such that a set of authorized resources is easily retrievable concurrent with an initiated task.

9. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said rules are Boolean expressions.

10. (Currently Amended) A computer system in a computer system network, said computer system comprising:

    a bus;

a memory unit coupled to said bus;

a processor coupled to said bus, said processor for executing a method of assigning resources to nodes in a workflow, said method comprising:

defining a plurality of nodes, wherein said nodes are tasks to be executed within said workflow;

defining said resources for execution of said nodes;

storing a set of data items having variables pertaining to execution of said workflow; and

assigning said resources to said nodes for execution thereof in accordance with a set of rules, said set of rules for controlling the execution of said workflow, wherein each rule of said set of rules specifies an event, a condition, and an action.

11. (Original) The computer system of Claim 10 wherein said rules of said method of assigning resources to nodes in a workflow are based in accordance with an execution history of said workflow.

12. (Original) The computer system of Claim 10 wherein said rules of said method of assigning resources to nodes in a workflow are based in accordance with said set of data items.

13. (Original) The computer system of Claim 10 wherein said rules of said method of assigning resources to nodes in a workflow are based in accordance with time, wherein said time

is relative to the execution of said nodes, and wherein said time is relative to the execution of said workflow, and wherein said time is relative to absolute time.

14. (Original) The computer system of Claim 10 wherein said rules of said method of assigning resources to nodes in a workflow are based upon an event/action criteria and wherein said rules are based upon an event/condition/action criteria.

15. (Original) The computer system of Claim 10 wherein said rules of said method of assigning resources to nodes in a workflow are based in accordance with a common language used for the entire workflow and used for assigning said resources to said nodes.

16. (Original) The computer system of Claim 10 wherein said resources further comprises pre-computed authorizations, and wherein said authorizations are maintained in an up-to-date-manner, such that a set of authorized resources is easily retrievable concurrent with an initiated task.

17. (Original) The computer system of Claim 10 wherein said resources executing said nodes are agents.

18. (Original) The computer system of Claim 10 wherein said rules of said method of assigning resources to nodes within a workflow are Boolean expressions.

19. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium for storing computer implemented instructions, said instructions for causing a computer system to perform:

defining a plurality of nodes, wherein said nodes are tasks to be executed within said workflow;

defining said resources for execution of said nodes;

storing a set of data items having variables pertaining to execution of said workflow; and

assigning said resources to said nodes for execution thereof in accordance with a set of rules, said set of rules for controlling the execution of said workflow, wherein each rule of said set of rules specifies an event, a condition, and an action.

20. (Original) The computer readable medium of Claim 19 wherein said rules are based in accordance with an execution history of said workflow.

21. (Original) The computer readable medium of Claim 19 wherein said rules are based in accordance with said set of data items.

22. (Original) The computer readable medium of Claim 19 wherein said rules are based in accordance with time, wherein said time is relative to the execution of said nodes, and wherein said time is relative to the execution of said

workflow, and wherein said time is relative to absolute time.

23. (Original) The computer readable medium of Claim 19
wherein said rules are based upon an event/action criteria and
wherein said rules are based upon an event/condition/action
criteria.

24. (Original) The computer readable medium of Claim 19
wherein said rules are based in accordance with a common
language used for the entire workflow and used for assigning
said resources to said nodes.

25. (Original) The computer readable medium of Claim 19
wherein said resources further comprises pre-computed
authorizations, and wherein said authorizations are maintained
in an up-to-date-manner, such that a set of authorized
resources is easily retrievable concurrent with an initiated
task.

26. (Original) The computer readable medium of Claim 19
wherein said resources executing said nodes are agents.

27. (Original) The computer readable medium of Claim 19
wherein said rules are Boolean expressions.